



The Askins in Asia



My Nearest Neighbors

Missionaries often face the temptation of forgetting to evangelize their nearest neighbors. I'm not talking about those in the house or flat next to us. I'm talking about those in the flat with us!

And missionaries are not the only ones who forget about these little ones.

We get caught up in the work around us. It never stops. There's always more. Request upon request. And like most people, missionaries hate letting others down. So, we're afraid to say no whenever someone asks for something else from us.

Missionaries are not the only people who struggle with this. Our 9-to-5 jobs take up time, and now, with the marvels of modern technology, we can even work from our phones at home. I have caught myself more than once triaging emails by phone from the dinner table. I have had to forego more than one family evening devotion for a meeting.

We must not forget the mission field within our own homes. The mission of the church does not only occur in exotic locales; it happens within the humdrum of our own familiar homes. The mission of the church occurs when we bring Christ's gifts to our children. When the family gathers around

the Word of God, the hymnal, and the catechism, they gather around the mission of the church.

When fathers teach the faith to their children, when mothers embody and teach that faith in their daily lives, the mission of the church goes on. The mission of the church takes place as the will of God is done. And what is that will of God?

Luther explains: "God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom, and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in this faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will."

Recently I've been paying special attention to the mission field within my home. Every morning, my family and I gather around the Word of God as collected in the *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. We use one of the orders of service from the *Lutheran Service Book*. And we recite together the catechism.

The work of preaching the Gospel in foreign lands still needs to be done and still continues. But we dare not let that task cause us to forget the proclamation that must happen within our homes. We dare not forget our nearest neighbors.

We must not forget the mission field within our own homes.

June for Father

— by Eliza

June has a day to celebrate fathers.

We called grandpas and made sure Dad enjoyed his favorite foods. The children colored pictures and mailed cards. They talked about favorite times they've spent with father figures of their family.

As it was a Sunday, we spent the morning in church.

And again this past Sunday we were in church. Both times their father preached.

This is a special cross and blessing as a pastor's family. We are fed by Word and Sacrament. We join in song. And we also stumble through the liturgy as a little one wiggles because Dad is far enough away to test the boundaries.

Mom listens but only hears snippets of the sermon as her attentions are on keeping order in the pew. Children's eyes and attentions wonder.

But still pastor, dad, and husband preaches to them.

Actually, the Lord preaches to them through this dad and husband.

And we rejoice that the Lord speaks, serves, and forgives. We rejoice that He is our Father and that He has given this earthly father willing to stand firm in the faith and serve us.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Roy S. Askins, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Askins-Hong Kong" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/givenow/askins. To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438.

Contact us at roy.askins@lcmsintl.org.

For Your Prayers

In your prayers, please keep these things in mind:

- For Johanna Heidorn, the new communications specialist, who is raising support. Support her here: lcms.org/heidorn
- For Pr. Askins as he takes on the care of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hong Kong, during Pr. Kolb's absence
- For the Askins in Asia support network, that it would continue to strengthen

Want to Hear More?

We are connecting with congregations through video phone calls. We have presented to several congregations for Bible class already and are looking for more opportunities.

Send me an email for more information:
roy.askins@lcmsintl.org

Thank You

To all of you who are supporting us in so many and various ways, thank you.

For your prayers, thank you. For your financial support, thank you. For your notes and thoughts, thank you.

— The Askins

A Page of Pictures

Enjoy these pictures from the last month. For more, visit our website: askinsinasia.com.



Cornelia gets a face full of dad's beard



Ezekiel has a lizard and a monkey on his back



Last month, the LCMS delivered copies of the Book of Concord to members of the GKLI.



We had to temporarily say goodbye to some great friends and faithful neighbors, the Kolb Family, as they return to the states to raise support.

You can support them here: lcms.org/kolb



Pray for
REV. ROY AND ELIZA ASKINS
 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
 SERVING IN THE ASIA REGION



Rev. Roy and Eliza Askins serve through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Asia, based in Hong Kong. Roy is the director of communications for the Asia region. He works with other LCMS personnel serving in this region to communicate the Gospel through social and other media outlets. He helps to share the story of what God is doing through LCMS personnel, partner church bodies and all believers, using print media, video, social media and the Internet. These resources are used to enlighten the church worldwide and encourage LCMS congregations and members to pray for and consider supporting those serving in this region and around the world.

Roy is a native Texan and his home congregation is Faith Lutheran Church, Plano, Texas. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Before serving in Asia, Roy served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Livingston, Texas (2010-2014). In his free time, he enjoys reading, hiking and camping.



Eliza was born in Watertown, Wis., where her home congregation is Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon. Before heading overseas, Eliza taught at Emmanuel St. Michael Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind. (2006-2007) and Grace Lutheran Church and School, Menomonee Falls, Wis. (2007-2008). In her free time, she enjoys reading, camping and walking. Roy and Eliza enjoy spending time with their six beautiful children – Eva Maria, Mathias, Roman, Ezekiel, Anastasia and Cornelia.

Pray for the Askins as they serve in Asia and Hong Kong and as they transition to a new country. Pray for Roy that as he serves, he remains faithful to God's Word in difficult times. Pray for the LCMS personnel serving in the Asia region. Pray the hearts of people here in the United States are moved to pray for and to financially support the Askins so they can "go with" this family on their journey of faith. Let us give thanks that the Askins family is serving in this part of the world.

- **BIRTHDAYS:** Roy – July 19, Eliza – June 30, Eva Maria – March 1, Mathias – Oct. 11, Roman – Jan. 8, Ezekiel – Nov. 11, Anastasia – Oct. 22, Cornelia – Oct. 10
- **ANNIVERSARY:** Nov. 25 • **HOME DISTRICT:** Texas

- **Pray daily for Roy and Eliza** — and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit lcms.org/askins
- **Learn about LCMS international work** at lcms.org/international
- **Support and adopt an international worker.** Call 888-930-4438.

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"HERE AM I... SEND ME!"
MY SUPPORT OF THE LCMS THROUGH THE WORK OF:
Rev. Roy and Eliza Askins

Give securely online at lcms.org/askins or fill out the form below:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

TYPE OF GIFT:

- A monthly recurring gift** of \$ _____ for the duration of Roy and Eliza's service. (Please choose a payment method below.)
- A per-year pledge commitment** of \$ _____ to be fulfilled:
 - monthly quarterly semi-annually annually
- A special gift** of \$ _____

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MY/OUR GIFTS BY:

- Check** — Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Write **Askins-Asia Support** on memo line.
- Automatic Withdrawal** — Please include a **VOIDED ORIGINAL CHECK**.

I/we hereby authorize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to initiate automatic debits to my/our account at the financial institution named below. I/we acknowledge that the origination of direct debit (ACH) transactions to my/our account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law. This agreement will remain in effect until The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod receives a written notice of cancellation from me or my financial institution.

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MAIL TO: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • P.O. Box 66861 • St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

QUESTIONS? Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to mission.giving@lcms.org.

Gifts received for LCMS international workers are deposited in an account restricted for the support of eligible international workers. Any gifts received in excess of a worker's requirement for a given year are held for that worker until needed. Should a worker's service conclude for any reason, the funds remaining in the restricted account will be transferred to one or more eligible LCMS international workers who most closely fulfill the restrictions of the original gift. With documented donor permission, a restricted gift can also be utilized to support international work budgeted by the LCMS. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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